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(AMERICAN MERCENARIES)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - THE LAWYER FOR AN AMERICAN MERCENARY IMPRISONED IN ANGOLA CLAIMS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP HIS CLIENT WHO ALLEGEDLY HAD BEEN RECRUITED BY THE CIA.

ATTORNEY W. WILLIAM WILSON TOLD A SENATE INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE HE REPRESENTS THE PARENTS OF GARY ACKER, CAPTURED DURING THE ANGOLAN WAR, AND THE WIDOW AND FOUR CHILDREN OF DANIEL FRANCIS GEARHART, WHO WAS EXECUTED BY FIRING SQUAD IN THE ANGOLAN CAPITAL OF LUANDA JULY 10, 1976.

"FOR TWO YEARS, MY CLIENTS AND I HAVE STATED THAT THE CIA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF THE AMERICANS WHO WERE CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED OR EXECUTED IN ANGOLA IN 1976," HE SAID. "OUR CHARGES WERE MET WITH OFFICIAL DENIAL."

YET, WILSON SAID, FORMER CIA ANGOLAN TASK FORCE COMMANDER JOHN STOCKWELL HAD "RELUCTANTLY ADMITTED THAT THE CIA DID FUND THE COVERT RECRUITMENT OF AMERICANS WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES TO FIGHT IN ANGOLA."

"IF MR. STOCKWELL'S ACCOUNT IS TRUE, THEN MANY OFFICIALS OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE CIA HAVE GIVEN LESS THAN TRUTHFUL ACCOUNTS TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS AND TO THE COURTS," WILSON SAID.

WILSON SAID STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS LAST MONTH "ADMITTED THAT THEY HAD NEVER EVEN ASKED FOR GARY'S RELEASE - THIS AFTER FOUR YEARS OF ASSURANCES THAT THEY WERE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING THE YOUNG MAN HOME."

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